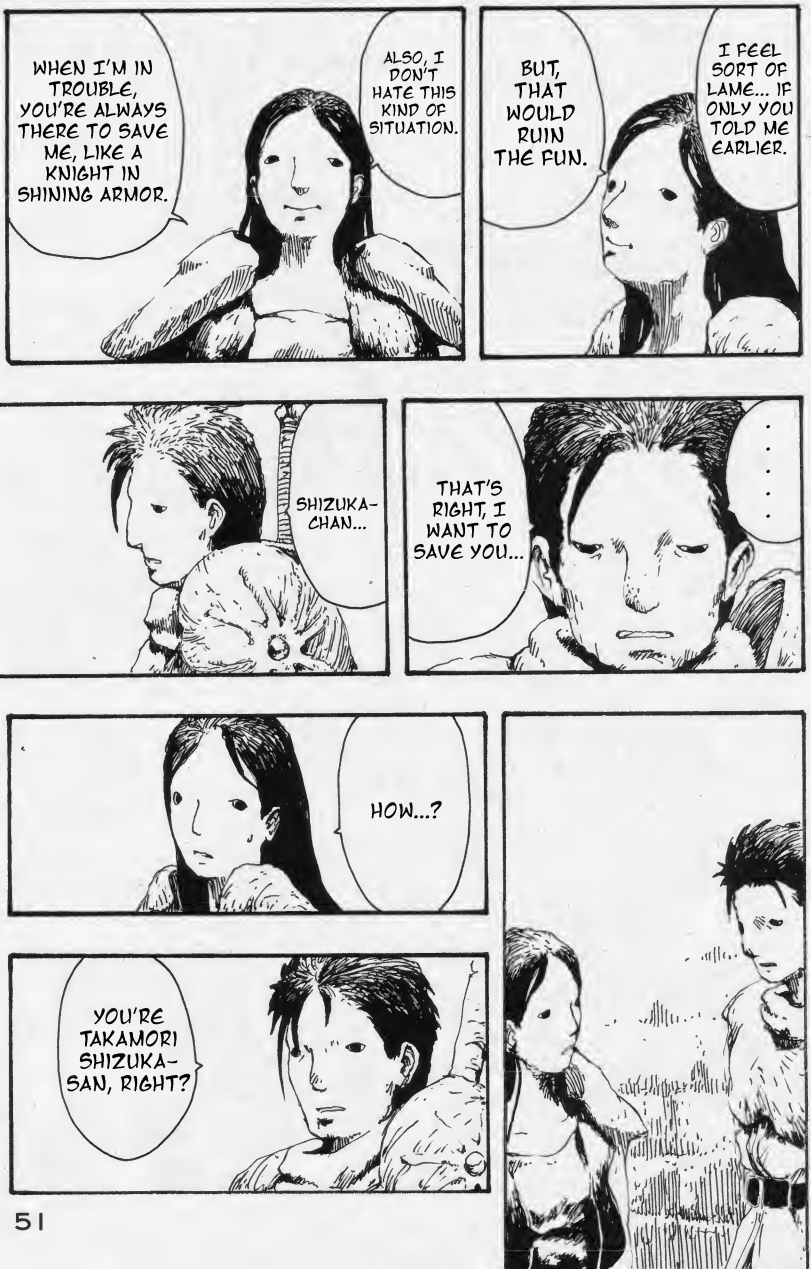
SHOULD WE SPLIT INTO 2 PARTIES?
WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?

. . . .

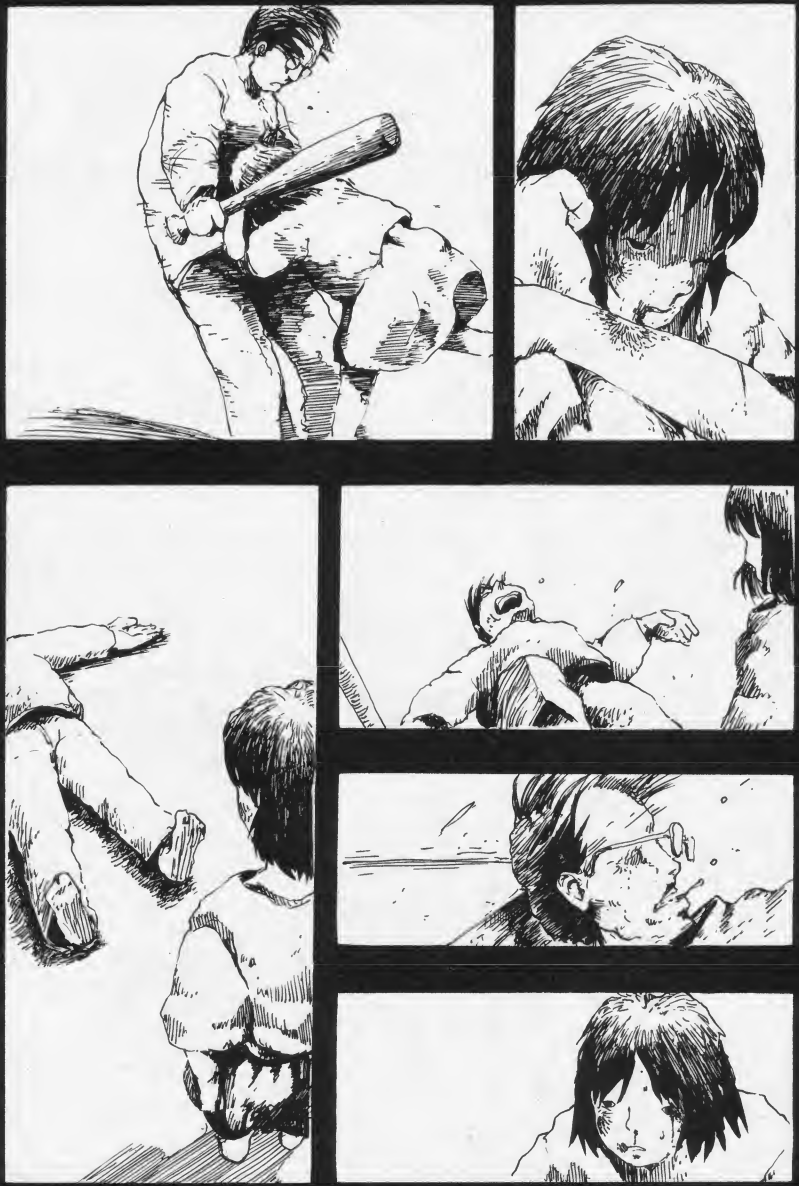
IF EITHER OF US FINDS A ROUTE THAT WE CAN ADVANCE VIA, USE CHAT TO CONTACT THE OTHER PARTY AND WE'LL MEET UP.
WHILE MIMI-SAN AND KOTETSU-SAN GO THAT WAY?
HOW ABOUT YUKA-SAN AND I GO THIS WAY?

LET'S CHANGE TO WHISPER MODE.
SURE ...
HEY, YUKA-SAN, CAN WE TALK? JUST THE TWO OF US?
OK.
OH! SO PASSIONATE! TWO LOVE BIRDS...
HAHAHA, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... EXCUSE US THEN...
. . . .
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
I KNOW ...
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S ABOUT, RIGHT?
I NOTICED ...
ONLY YOUR CHARA-CTER IS MALE. YOU'RE A WOMAN, RIGHT?
WOMEN'S INTUITION.
FU FU FU ...


WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE, YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE TO SAVE ME, LIKE A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR.
ALSO, I DON'T HATE THIS KIND OF SITUATION.
BUT, THAT WOULD RUIN THE FUN.
I FEEL SORT OF LAME... IF ONLY YOU TOLD ME EARLIER.
SHIZUKA-CHAN...
THAT'S RIGHT, I WANT TO SAVE YOU...
.....
HOW...?
YOU'RE TAKAMORI SHIZUKA-SAN, RIGHT?

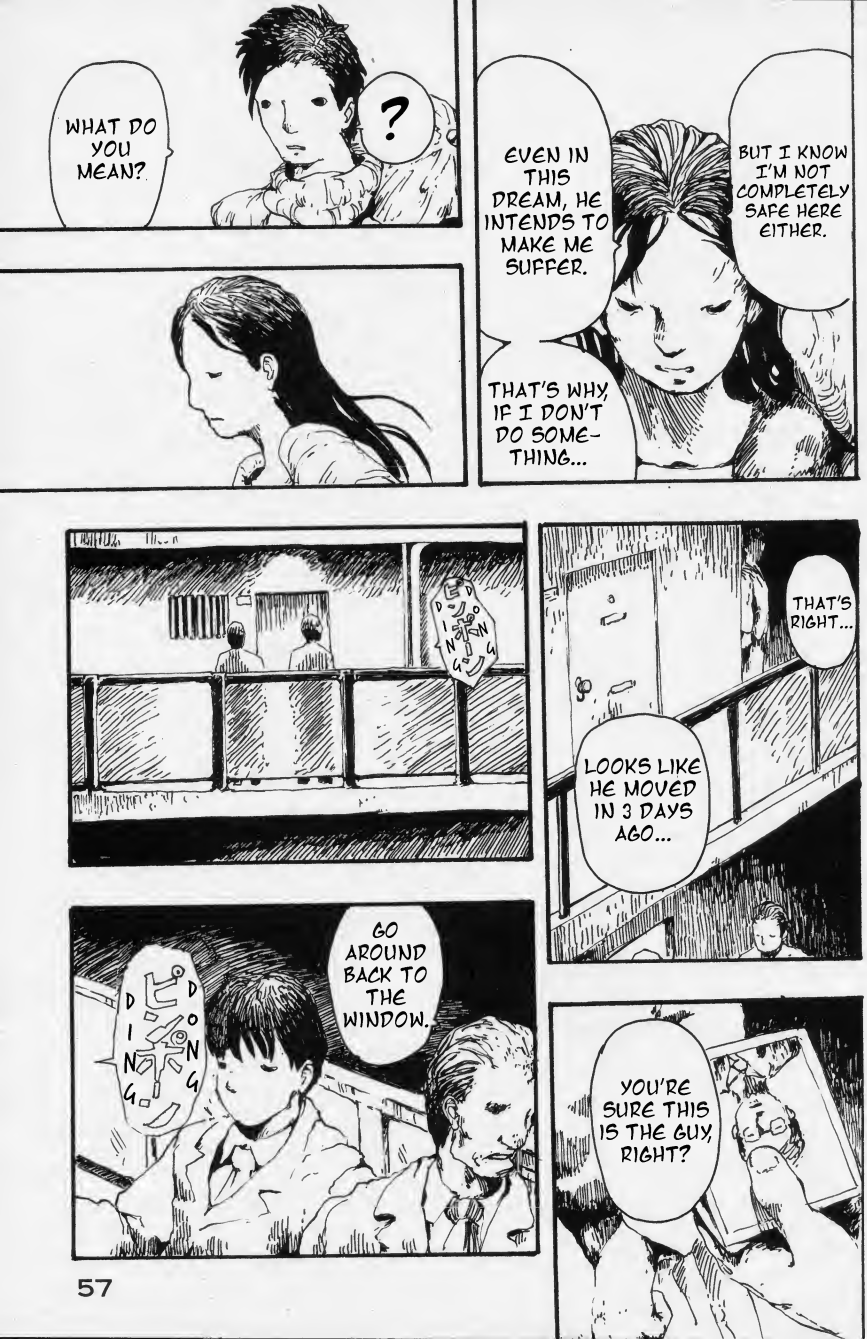
I REMEMBER.
. . . . . .
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
I WAS THE PERSON-IN-CHARGE ON YOUR CHILD ABUSE CASE AT THE CITY'S CHILD GUIDANCE AND ADVISORY CENTER. MY NAME IS TERADA MIE.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,
WE DID TALK ABOUT THIS GAME BEFORE.
I WANT TO HELP YOU.
I WANT YOU TO TELL US YOUR CURRENT LOCATION.
IF YOU DON'T COME TO US FOR HELP FIRST, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FROM OUR END EITHER.
THE DANGEROUS POSITION YOU'RE IN RIGHT NOW IS A PROBLEM WE MUST RESOLVE IN REAL LIFE.
TO ME, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ONLY RUNNING AWAY FROM YOUR PROBLEMS INTO THIS GAME...

I WANT TO UNDER-STAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
I'M LIVING INSIDE THIS GAME - THIS DREAM.
I...
A HAPPY FAMILY... DEPENDABLE COMRADES... THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT MY ENEMIES...
NO MATTER HOW HARD MY REAL LIFE MAY HAVE BEEN, I COULD BE ME AS LONG AS I WAS IN THIS DREAM, EVEN IF IT IS VIRTUAL...
THAT IS WHY, I TRULY WISHED...
THAT IF ONLY THE DREAM WORLD WERE ACTUALLY THE REAL WORLD, AND THE REAL WORLD A DREAM...
IN REAL LIFE, I HAVE NONE OF THESE THINGS...

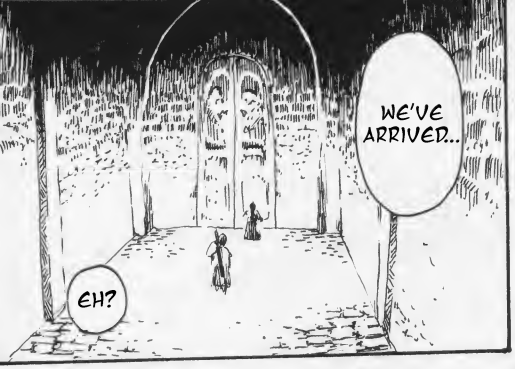


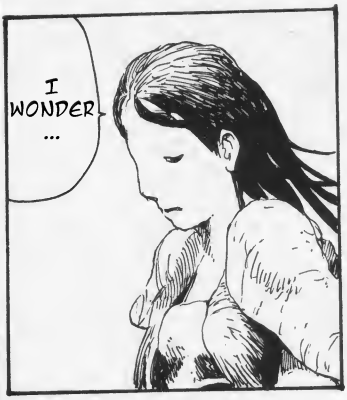
PASS
******
OK
LOGIN

I WASN'T IN FRONT OF THE KEYBOARD, I WAS INSIDE THE DREAM.
WHEN I CAME TO,
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHAT ABOUT THE YOU IN THE REAL WORLD?
THAT'S NOT... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SUCH A THING ISN'T POSSIBLE.
I AM A LITERAL RESIDENT OF THIS DREAM.
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS WHAT RESULTED.
IS SCARY..
GOING BACK TO THE REAL WORLD...
EVEN IF THIS IS THE VIRTUAL WORLD, IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I CAN REALLY LIVE... AND I'M FINE WITH THAT...
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I DON'T CARE ANYMORE EITHER...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?
BUT I KNOW I'M NOT COMPLETELY SAFE HERE EITHER.
EVEN IN THIS DREAM, HE INTENDS TO MAKE ME SUFFER.
THAT'S WHY, IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING...
DING DONG
THAT'S RIGHT...
LOOKS LIKE HE MOVED IN 3 DAYS AGO...
GO AROUND BACK TO THE WINDOW.
DING DONG
YOU'RE SURE THIS IS THE GUY, RIGHT?

THIS DUNGEON REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY MONSTERS, HUH...
MAYBE NOBODY IS HOME.
.....
YEAH.
CAN'T CONTACT THE OTHER TWO EITHER...
THIS PLACE IS INSIDE YOUR DREAM, ISN'T IT?
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DON'T THINK THIS DUNGEON EXISTS IN THE GAME...


WE'VE ARRIVED...
EH?


I WONDER...

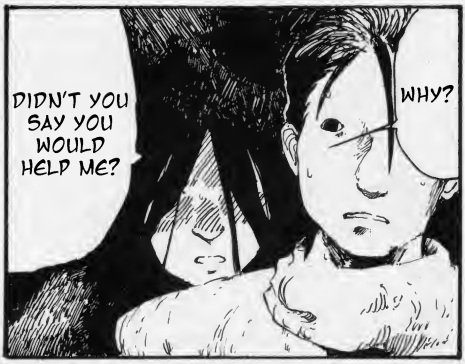
THE QUEST BOSS IS AHEAD.
THIS IS THE FINAL STAGE OF THE DUNGEON.

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
WHAT ON EARTH LIES AHEAD?

.....
ギギ

THAT'S...
WHA-
SHIZUKA -SAN?
FATHER ...?
YOUR...

THAT MAN...
HE IS THE QUEST BOSS...
NOW... DEFEAT HIM...
OR IS IT...
WHA- WAIT... WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT IS THIS? ARE WE STILL INSIDE THE GAME? ...OR IS THIS AN ILLUSION INSIDE YOUR DREAM THAT YOU'VE CONJURED?
te ...
he... kat-suk-ou...
ga ga bi do...


DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULD HELP ME?
WHY?

I CAN'T DO IT...
I-

KUH ...

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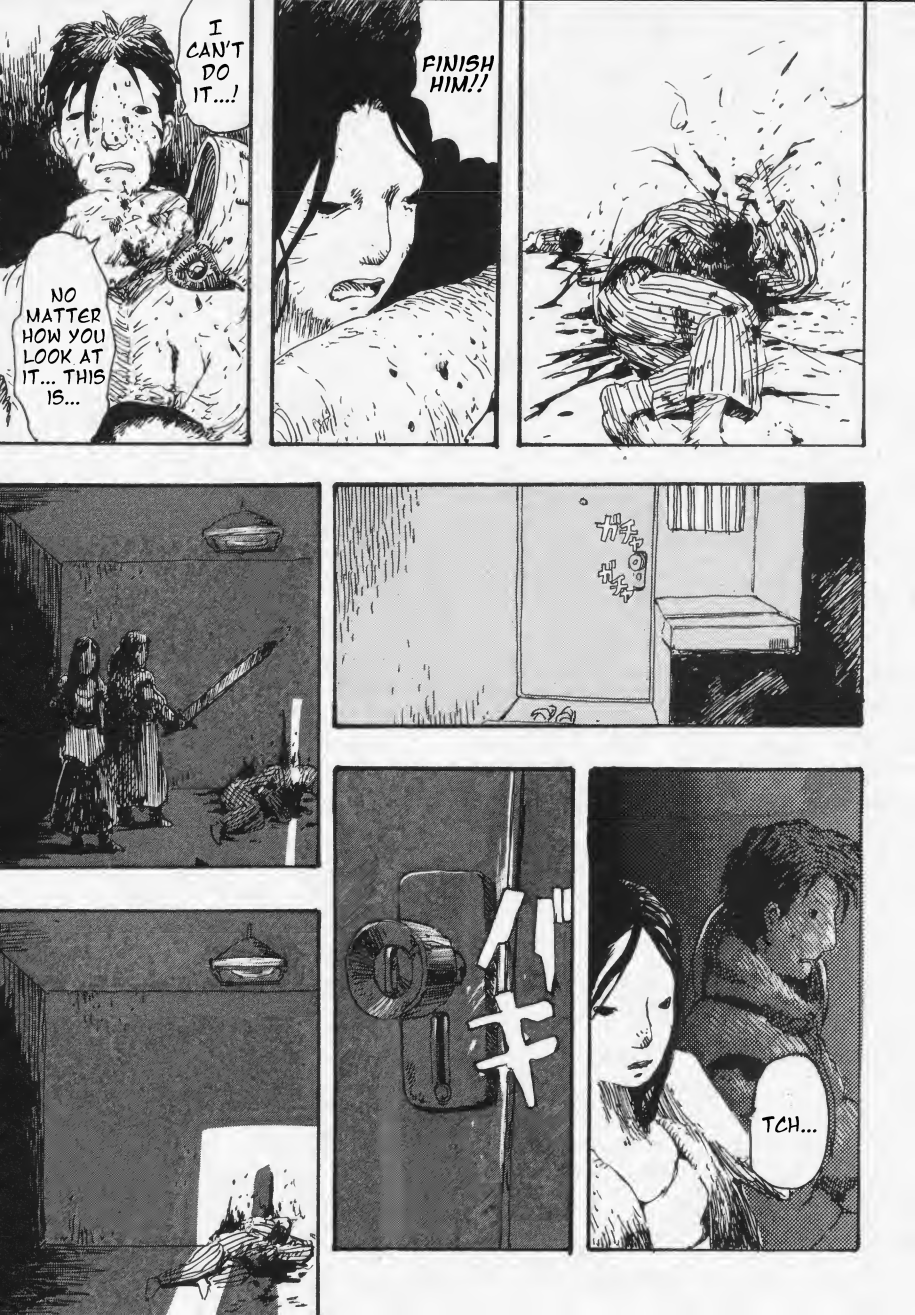
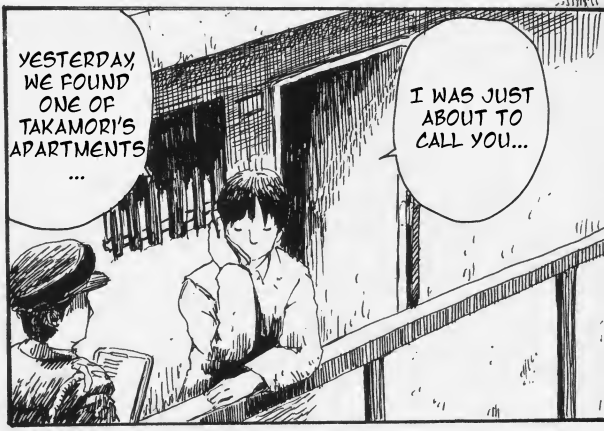

I CAN'T DO IT...!
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT... THIS IS...
FINISH HIM!!
TCH...

WHAT? REALLY?
IT'S A LITTLE UNBELIEVEABLE, TO SAY THE LEAST.

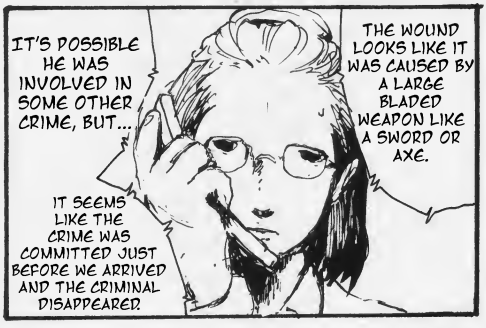
WHAT'S HAPPENED? IF YOU NEED A FAVOR, JUST ASK.
OH, I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW IT WAS GOING...

AH, MATSUDA-SAN?

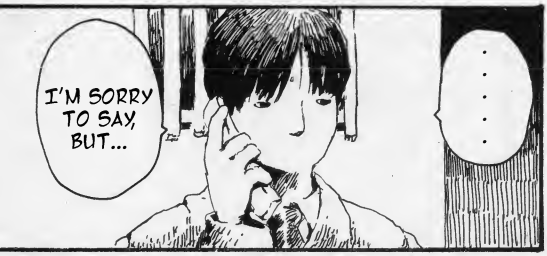
WHEN WE KICKED DOWN THE DOOR, WE FOUND TAKAMORI SHIROU. HE WAS PASSED OUT DUE TO A LARGE WOUND.
ドキ DO-KI
I SEE...

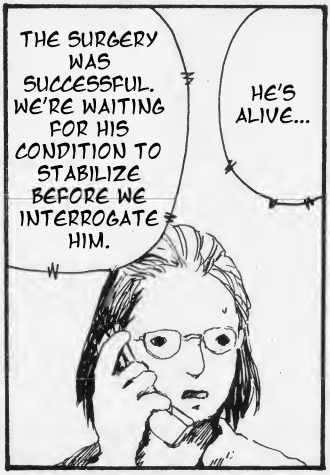

YESTERDAY, WE FOUND ONE OF TAKAMORI'S APARTMENTS ...
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU...

SO, THE FATHER... IS HE...


IT'S POSSIBLE HE WAS INVOLVED IN SOME OTHER CRIME, BUT...
IT SEEMS LIKE THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED JUST BEFORE WE ARRIVED AND THE CRIMINAL DISAPPEARED.
THE WOUND LOOKS LIKE IT WAS CAUSED BY A LARGE BLADED WEAPON LIKE A SWORD OR AXE.

WHERE IS SHIZUKA-CHAN...? SHE SHOULD BE SAFE, RIGHT?
THEN...

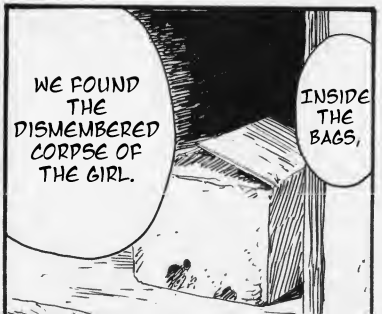

I'M SORRY TO SAY, BUT...
. . . . .


THE SURGERY WAS SUCCESSFUL. WE'RE WAITING FOR HIS CONDITION TO STABILIZE BEFORE WE INTERROGATE HIM.
HE'S ALIVE...

WE BELIEVE THAT THE GIRL'S TIME OF DEATH COINCIDES WITH THE TIME THAT THE FATHER AND CHILD WENT MISSING FROM THEIR ORIGINAL HOUSE.
THE REMAINS HAD ALREADY BEEN DECOMPOSING FOR A FEW WEEKS...

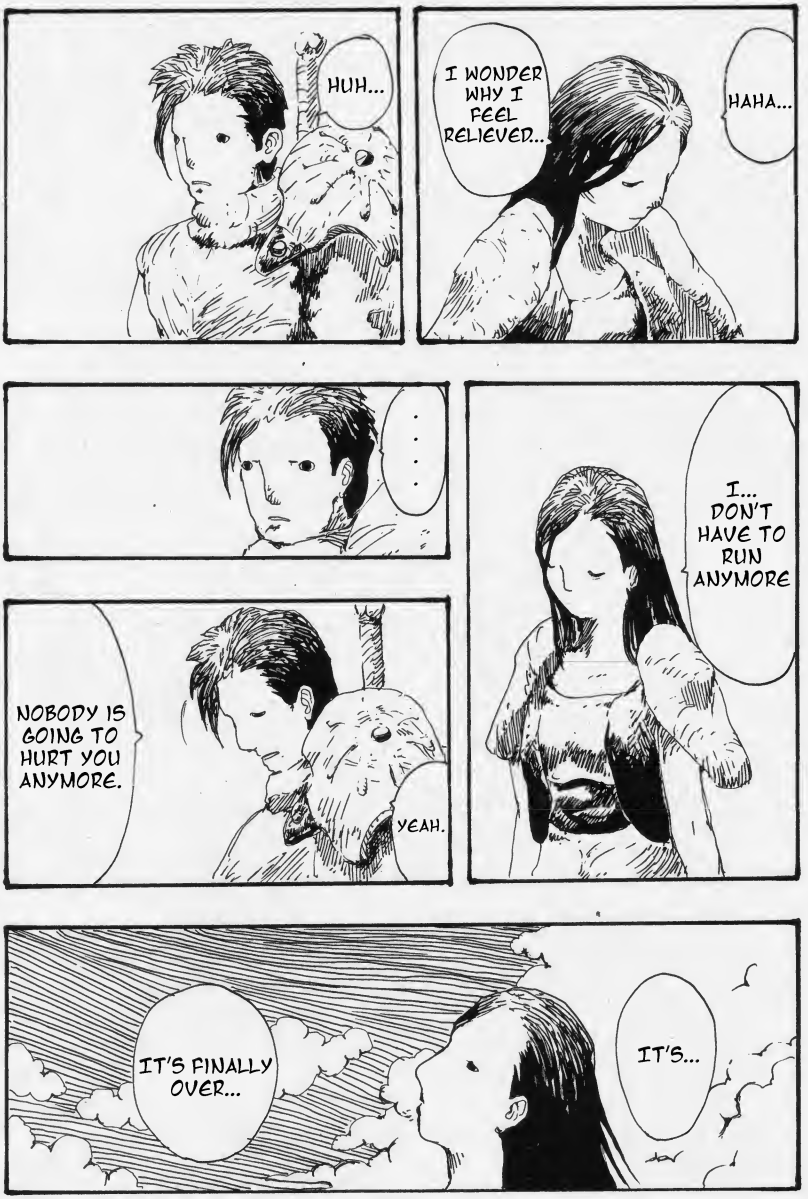
IN THE ROOM'S CLOSET WE FOUND A CARDBOARD BOX WITH TRASH BAGS INSIDE.

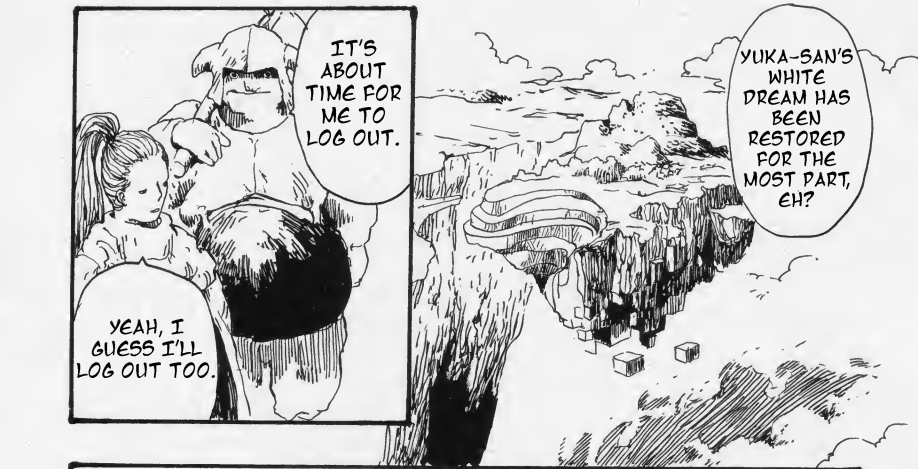
WHA-


WE FOUND THE DISMEMBERED CORPSE OF THE GIRL.
INSIDE THE BAGS,

カチ
LOG IN
I SEE...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

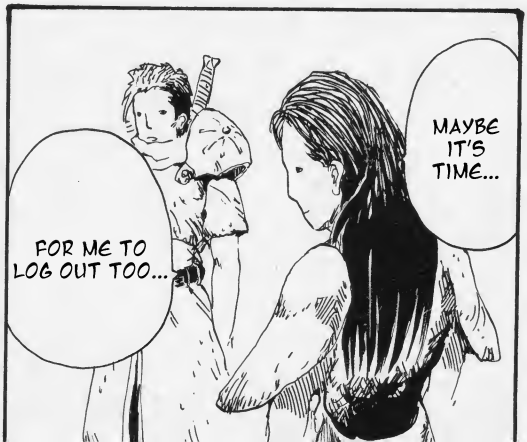
I WAS TOO AFRAID TO EVEN LOOK BACK THAT I NEVER EVEN TRIED TO FIND OUT...
I'M A FOOL...
YOUR FATHER PROBABLY RAN FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN ORDER TO PREVENT YOUR MURDER FROM COMING TO LIGHT. ALL THE WHILE, HIDING YOUR REMAINS BY CARRYING THEM WITH HIM...
TO ME, THIS SITUATION IS STILL QUITE UBELIEV-ABLE.
I SEE...
BUT, AS FOR YOUR DAD, IT'S ALREADY...
IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO CONTINUE LIVING WITHIN THIS GAME AS YOUR CHARACTER...
SO I WAS ALREADY DEAD, HUH...


HUH...
I WONDER WHY I FEEL RELIEVED...
HAHA...
. . . .
I... DON'T HAVE TO RUN ANYMORE
NOBODY IS GOING TO HURT YOU ANYMORE.
YEAH.
IT'S FINALLY OVER...
IT'S...


IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO LOG OUT.
YEAH, I GUESS I'LL LOG OUT TOO.
YUKA-SAN'S WHITE DREAM HAS BEEN RESTORED FOR THE MOST PART, EH?

ピク
ピク
SEE YOU THEN...

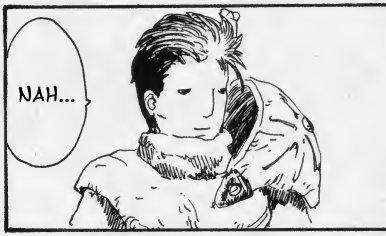
YEAH...


FOR ME TO LOG OUT TOO...
MAYBE IT'S TIME...

WHY DID THINGS HAVE TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS...?
I GUESS MY BIRTH REALLY WAS A MISTAKE.
HAHA ...

NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE THAT WE WERE RESPONSIBLE IF WE TOLD THEM THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED, SO I WOULD NOT EVEN COME UNDER SUSPICION.
EVEN IF THAT WERE THE CASE, NOBODY WOULD BLAME YOU...

I INVOLVED YOU IN A REALLY NASTY SITUATION ...
SORRY...

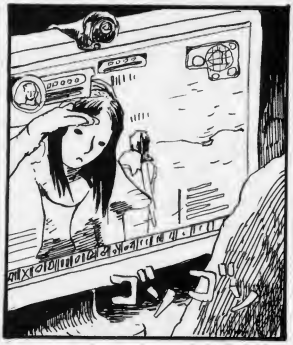

NAH...

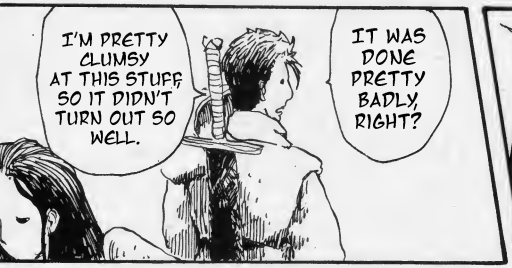
WHA-?
ド

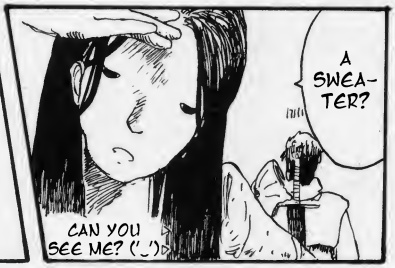
TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ISN'T IT?
...YUKA-SAN,

CAN YOU SEE ME THROUGH MY WEBCAM?
IF YOU CAN TRAVEL BETWEEN THE DREAM WORLD AND THE REAL WORLD,
UH... YEAH.

YEAH, BUT...



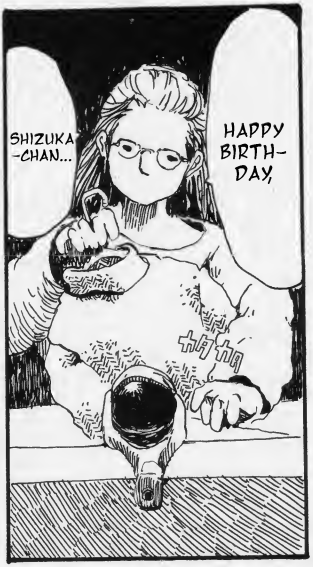

I'M PRETTY CLUMSY AT THIS STUFF, SO IT DIDN'T TURN OUT SO WELL.
IT WAS DONE PRETTY BADLY, RIGHT?


A SWEA-TER?
CAN YOU SEE ME? ('_')▷

SO I AT LEAST WANTED YOU SEE A PICTURE OF IT.
IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO PASS IT TO YOU.

I WAS THINKING OF GIVING THIS TO YOU AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT IF WE MANAGED TO RESCUE YOU.
YOU WERE ALWAYS WEARING THE SAME SHABBY CLOTHING, SO...
OH.

.....


SHIZUKA-CHAN...
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY,

A PICTURE DOESN'T MAKE MUCH OF A PRESENT...
SORRY,

HA HA HA...

WELL...
YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS KINDA WEIRD...

I'M ALREADY DEAD, SO CELEBRATING MY BIRTHDAY IS A BIT...
THANK YOU, BUT...

HA HA HA
FU FU FU

IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT I GO...
...THEN...
HA HA ...
YEAH...
END

YUME BY HIRAMATSU KANNOSUKE

TRANSLATOR: /U/19199RETSOPTIHS ON REDDIT
TRANSLATOR: /U/LAIKAGOHOME ON REDDIT
CLEANER: /U/WILLRANDSHIP ON REDDIT
TYPESETTER: /U/LONGSHOTTE ON REDDIT
JUSTICE REVIVAL PROJECT

Afternoon Four Seasons Awards